

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A manufacturing monitoring system used to determine the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line, comprising:

a web server,
means for gathering data relating to the efficiency of the production plant, the assembly line or the components of the assembly line;

means for communicating said gathered data with said web server;
said data being selected from the group consisting of unit output values, downtime occurrences, downtime duration, downtime incident codes, downtime categorization, action items, minutes ran, hours schedule, capable rate, actual output, idle time, total time, waste analysis values, or combinations thereof;

means for storing the gathered data at said web server;
means for calculating production efficiency based on the gathered data to provide calculated data;

means for communicating the gathered data and the calculated data within said system; and and communicating the gathered data and the calculated data to a remote location via the web server; and

means for displaying the calculated data.

2. (currently amended) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
means for displaying the gathered data;

means for communicating said gathered data over the Internet or an intranet.

3. (currently amended) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:

means for storing the calculated data within said system including a database associated with said web server.

4. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 1 wherein

 said means for gathering data is circuitry that monitors the condition and operation of an assembly or a process line component or subcomponent.

5. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 4 wherein

 said circuitry used to monitor the condition and operation of an assembly or a process line component or subcomponent is a programmable logic controller.

6. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 1 wherein

 said means for gathering data is an input device capable of sending or receiving data selected from the group consisting of an electronic terminal, a personal computer, a computer, a data processor, a handheld data device, or combinations thereof.

7. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 6 wherein

said means for gathering data is an input device for sending or receiving data and which allows the operator to batch enter the data.

8. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 1 wherein

 said means for calculating production efficiency is a data processor.

9. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 1 wherein

 said means for storing the gathered data is a database.

10. (currently amended) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 1 wherein

 said means to communicate the informationgathered data and the calculated data includes the Internet or an intranet.

11. (currently amended) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 1 wherein

 said means to display the informationgathered data and the calculated data includes a terminal, computer, handheld device, monitor or other humanly perceptible display.

12. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 1 wherein

 said calculated data provides an efficiency report.

13. (currently amended) A manufacturing monitoring system used to determine the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line, comprising:

a web server,

data circuitry to gather data relating to the efficiency of the production plant, the assembly line or the components of the assembly line,

said gathered data being selected from the group consisting of unit output values, downtime occurrences, downtime duration, downtime incident codes, downtime categorization, action items, minutes ran, hours scheduled, capable rate, actual output, idle time, total time, waste analysis values, or combinations thereof;

a data processor for receiving the gathered data and for performing calculations with at least some of the gathered data to provide calculated data; and

means to communicate said gathered data with said data processor via said web server; and

a display in communication with the data processor to display the calculated data.

14. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 13 further comprising:

a database in communication with the data processor for receiving and storing the calculated data.

15. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 13 wherein

the calculated data provides an efficiency report.

16. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 13 wherein

 said data circuitry monitors the condition and operation of an assembly or process line component or subcomponent.

17. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 16 wherein

 said data circuitry is a programmable logic controller.

18. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 13 wherein

 said data processor is an electronic terminal, a personal computer, a computer, a handheld computing device, or combinations thereof.

19. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 13 wherein

 said data circuitry is an input device which allows the operator to batch enter the gathered data.

20. (previously presented) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 13 wherein

 said gathered data are communicated over the Internet or an intranet.

21. (currently amended) The manufacturing monitoring system in accordance with claim 13 wherein

 said display for displaying the gathered data or the calculated data is a part of a computer terminal, a personal computer, a handheld data device, or a monitor; and

said gathered data or said calculated data is communicated over the Internet or an intranet to said display.

22. (currently amended) A manufacturing monitoring system used to determine the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line comprising:

an input layer to gather data relating to the efficiency of the production plant, the assembly line or the components of the assembly line,

said data being selected from the group consisting of unit output values, downtime occurrences, downtime duration, downtime incident codes, downtime categorization, action items, minutes ran, hours scheduled, capable rate, actual output, idle time, total time, waste analysis values, or combinations thereof;

a data processing layer to calculate the production efficiency based on the said data gathered by the input layer;

a storage layer for storing the data gathered by the input layer and for storing the data calculated by the data processing layer;

a communication layer to communicate over the Internet or an intranet the data stored at the storage layer within the manufacturing monitoring system; and
a presentation layer to display the data stored at the storage layer.

23. (currently amended) A manufacturing monitoring method for determining the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line; said method comprising the steps of:

gathering data related to the efficiency of the production plant, the assembly line or the components of the assembly line;

selecting said gathered data from the group consisting of unit output values, downtime occurrences, downtime duration, downtime incident codes, downtime categorization, action items, minutes ran, hours scheduled, capable

rate, actual output, idle time, total time, waste analysis values, or combinations thereof;

calculating a production efficiency based on the gathered data with a data processor;

storing the gathered data and the calculated data in a memory;

communicating by the Internet or an intranet the gathered data and the calculated data to other computers, terminals, servers, or databases; and

displaying the calculated data on a display.

24. (previously presented) The method of determining the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the additional step of:

displaying the gathered data on a display.

25. (previously presented) The method of determining the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the additional step of:

communicating the calculated data over the Internet or an intranet.

26. (previously presented) The method of determining the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the additional step of:

communicating the gathered data over the Internet or an intranet.

27. (previously presented) The method of determining the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the additional step of:

storing the gathered data in a database.

28. (previously presented) The method of determining the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the additional step of:

displaying the calculated data in a format viewable by a web-browser.

29. (previously presented) The method of determining the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line as claimed in claim 23,

wherein the step of calculating a production efficiency provides an efficiency report.

30. (previously presented) The method of determining the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the additional step of:

entering gathered data by batch entry into said system.

31. (previously presented) The method of determining the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the additional step of:

communicating the calculated data over the Internet or an intranet.

32. (previously presented) The method of determining the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line as claimed in claim 23, wherein

the step of gathering data related to the efficiency of the production plant, the assembly line or the components of the assembly line includes gathering data with a programmable logic controller.

33. (previously presented) The method of determining the efficiency of a production plant, an assembly or a process line or the components of that assembly or a process line as claimed in claim 23, wherein

the step of gathering data related to the efficiency of the production plant, the assembly line or the components of the assembly line includes monitoring the condition or operation of an assembly or a process line component or subcomponent.